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Selected news items primarily on
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Foreign Press Bulletin is a daily publication of the Foreign Documents Division giving press items of current interest which, to our knowledge, have not been reported by other media. The items are grouped by subject category.

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POLITICAL

COMMUNIST CHINESE INVITATION DRAWS MIXED REACTION FROM COSTA RICAN LEGISLATORS

CPYRGHT

The direct invitation extended recently by Chairman Chang Hsi-jo of Communist China's People's Institute for Foreign Affairs to the President of the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly to send either a 10- or 15-man delegation to visit China in August or some other time in 1960 has evoked varied reactions among Costa Rican Legislative Assembly members. The invitation, which provoked debates in the Assembly on the grounds that it would be improper for this body to accept officially, was finally resolved by having its members decide its rejection or acceptance individually. The following Assembly members have either rejected or declared themselves unfavorable to the invitation: Fournier, Brenes Mendez, Garron Salazar, Fonseca Zuniga, Caamano Cubero, and Segares. Humberto Saborio Bravo has declared himself in favor of the trip and said that "he does not have any fear, because his democratic conviction is not in doubt." Lopez Gutierrez said that "the traditional democracy of Costa Rica is not going to be crumbled by this visit"; the proposed trip to China by the Legislative members "will be made next August, possibly in the early or latter part of July." The delegation, consisting of representatives of all political parties, has been estimated at around 30. (San Jose, La Nacion, 8 Jul 60)

Legislative Assembly Member Carro Zuniga reacted to the invitation as follows: "I have studied Marxism, I have my own ideas and convictions which make me feel anti-Communist, but I am not so naive as to fail to realize the mistakes of the US, which places me in a situation far removed from accepting biased appraisals dealing with world problems." He has counseled his Assembly colleagues to let those who desire to go to China do so; "let them become familiar with the situation there," he said; "let them see with their own eyes and not only through the news agencies which are in the service of the US." He suggested that "there is a third position, which is the one our country should accept...." (San Jose, La Nacion, 7 Jul 60)

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ECONOMIC

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES OF CZECHOSLOVAK OKRES COMMITTEES -- Prague, Zemedelske Noviny, 19 Jun 60

CPYRGHT

Under the new territorial-administrative organization of Czechoslovakia, the okres national committees will have full jurisdiction over all state farms, school farms, agricultural, industrial, and forestry apprentice schools, MTS, veterinary organizations, and the new okres centers for agricultural investments. Many of these units were formerly under the supervision of kraj or even national organizations. By managing the output of the state farms located within their area, the okres national committees will exercise control over all agricultural production.

CHINA BUILDING CONCRETE SHIPS -- Warsaw, Cement, Wapno, Gips, Jun 60, p 191

CPYRGHT

The People's Republic of China has now started the construction of reinforced concrete ships, which will be used for coastal navigation.

[Comment: To FDD's knowledge, this is the first indication that China will use concrete ships in ocean-going transport. Information on smaller concrete vessels for inland waterways appeared in Summary No 2479, Data on Industrial Plants in Communist China (3).]

SOCIOLOGICAL

NEWSPAPER WITH PHONETICS PUBLISHED IN CHINA'S SHANSI PROVINCE -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 6 Jul 60, p 4

CPYRGHT

To promote the method of learning Chinese characters with the aid of phonetics, to become a literate province, and to speed up educating the agricultural masses, the Shansi party committee recently changed the newspaper Shansi Nung-min Pao to Shansi Chu-yin [added phonetics] Pao. The first issue under the new name was published on 1 July 1960.

Besides using pinyin [romanized Chinese] to help the masses understand Chinese characters, the newspaper will popularly propagandize party policies, foreign and domestic news, advanced experience in socialist construction, events and news on personages, and scientific and technical knowledge.

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[Comment: To FDD's knowledge, this is the first newspaper to use pinyin extensively. Periodicals have been carrying some pinyin articles.]

CZECHOSLOVAK SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED TO ISRAELI ARAB YOUTHS -- Tel Aviv, Lamerhav, 1 Jul 60

CPYRGHT

A number of scholarships for study in Czechoslovakia have been offered to graduates of Nazareth high schools. Majid Fahum, principal of the Nazareth Municipal High School [and an anti-Communist member of the Nazareth Municipal Council], told a correspondent of the Itim Israeli news agency that activists of the Nazareth Branch of the Maki (Israeli Communist Party) arranged a meeting between him and a Czech diplomat. The diplomat offered a full scholarship, including travel expenses, to enable Fahum's son to study medicine.

[Comment: This report appeared in several Israeli dailies, but not in Kol Haam, the Communist Party organ. According to the report in the Jerusalem Post, Fahum has on several occasions been the target of virulent attacks in the Communist press; it also mentioned that the other scholarships have been distributed by local Communist Party members.]

MILITARY

EAST GERMAN BOOK ON CHEMICAL WARFARE PUBLISHED -- Berlin, Die Volksarmee, 1 May 60

CPYRGHT

Dr Karlheinz Lohs, author of the book Synthetische Gifte (Synthetic Poisons), published by the Ministry of National Defense Publishing House, presents a survey of the chemical, physical, and pharmacological properties of important poison gases, and of the methods by which these substances can be detected, in his new work entitled Nachweisgeraete fuer giftige Gase, Daempfe und Staube (Detection Devices for Poisonous Gases, Vapors, and Dust). This type of book was urgently needed in the GDR, primarily because the armies of the imperialist countries have been concentrating more on the development and testing of highly effective chemical warfare agents, such as the phosphorous acid-ester type (Phosphorsaeureestertyp). In the interests of national defense, therefore, the GDR must take effective countermeasures for early detection of these chemical warfare agents.

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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL

SOVIET ANTIVENOM VACCINE BEING SHIPPED TO MIDDLE EAST -- Moscow, Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, 5 Jul 60, p 3

CPYRGHT Tashkent -- The Tashkent Scientific Research Institute of Vaccine and Sera, the only shipper of antivenom vaccine in the USSR, is shipping serum to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other Eastern countries where it is used to treat persons who have been bitten by poisonous snakes. The preparation is obtained from snake venom delivered to the institute by the Zoological Park where snakes are received from southern Uzbekistan and other republics. The venom is dried at the production departments of the institute; the crystalline dry precipitate which is obtained is dissolved in physiological solution and formalin is added. The institute ships out tens of thousands of ampoules of the preparation every 3 months.

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